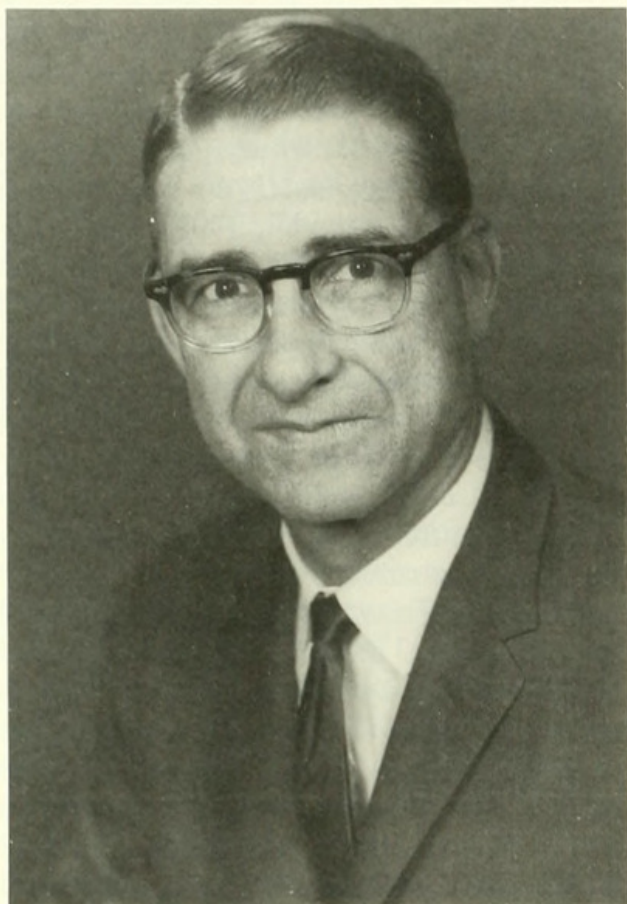


OBITUARY

Kary Cadmus Emerson
(1918–1993)



K. C. Emerson, 14 November 1966 (Courtesy of the United States Army).

Kary Cadmus (K. C.) Emerson of Sanibel, Florida, died after a lengthy illness on June 23, 1993, at the age of 75. K. C. was born in Sasakwa, Oklahoma, on March 13, 1918, and attended public schools in Ada, Beggs, and Cromwell, Oklahoma, subsequently obtaining 3 degrees from Oklahoma State University—BS (1939), MS (1940), and Ph.D. (1949). After graduation from Oklahoma State University with a BS degree, he married the former Mary Rebecca Williams of Enid, Oklahoma, and started several careers simultaneously.

K. C. entered the U.S. Army before World War II as an infantry officer and left the service as a colonel in October, 1966. During that time, he served in the Philippines, was captured by the Japanese Army, made the Bataan Death March, and spent several years in prisoner-of-war camps in the Philippines, Formosa, and Japan. Later, he served in Germany in several positions in the 2nd Armored Division. He received awards from Philippine, Korean, and U.S. Army officials for his outstanding service.

He taught at Oklahoma State University, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Far East Branch of the University of Maryland Overseas Program. He also advised and assisted graduate students on their research at Harvard University, Cornell University, Texas A&M University, and the Universities of New Hampshire, Maryland, Oklahoma, California (Berkeley), and Lucknow (India). He held an appointment of Adjunct Professor at Oklahoma State University beginning in 1971.

As a U.S. Government official, he served (1) with the United Nations Command Component of the Armistice Commission in Korea, (2) as the U.S. Representative on the NATO Panel on Long-term Scientific Studies, (3) as the Army Member on the Department of Defense Committees, (4) on Research, Management of In-House Laboratories, Management of Federal Contract Research Centers, and Manpower Research Planning, (5) on the Interagency Panel on Systematics and Taxonomy, and (6) on numerous lesser known governmental committees. He was the Research Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army and, as such, actively participated in the manage-

ment of all Army-sponsored research. One of his accomplishments was the transfer of the Biological Warfare facilities at Fort Detrick, Maryland, to the National Institutes of Health so that the enlarged cancer program could be executed in the finest facilities available. He also arranged for the transfer of the Biological Warfare facilities at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to the Food and Drug Administration for establishment of a National Toxicological Research Center.

As a biologist, his early interest was in medical and veterinary entomology, which he studied under Lloyd E. Rozeboom and Darrel E. Howell. In recognition of limited facilities for research that he would have as he traveled after World War II, he concentrated on the taxonomy, ecology, and distribution of ectoparasites, especially the chewing and sucking lice (Phthiraptera). He studied collections at the British Museums in London and Tring, the California Academy of Science, Stanford University, University of California (Berkeley), University of Kansas, the U.S. National Museum, and smaller collections in Formosa, Germany, the Philippines, and several universities in the U.S. When he started his research on chewing lice, their taxonomy was in a chaotic state. He worked with Theresa Clay and G. H. E. Hopkins on the preparation and publication of their checklist, which did much to put taxonomy of this group of ectoparasites on a firm scientific basis. He later published checklists of North American Mallophaga. In nearly 45 years of active research, he published more than 180 scientific books and articles in the U.S., Canada, India, Australia, South Africa, Denmark, Thailand, and England. He described 1 new family, 11 new genera and subgenera, and over 200 new species and subspecies of lice. Over 25 taxa of insects have been named in his honor. He served on the Council of the Biological Society of Washington. His collection and scientific library were given to Oklahoma State University in 1970 and they are now part of The K. C. Emerson

Entomology Museum there. After his arrival in Washington D.C. in 1959, he was appointed Collaborator with the Department of Agriculture and Research Associate with the U.S. National Museum. During his tenure in those positions, he rearranged the chewing and sucking louse collections, greatly enlarging both, and made identifications for both organizations.

Dr. Emerson has held membership in numerous organizations, including the Entomological Society of Washington, Florida Entomological Society, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Society of Systematic Zoology, Wildlife Disease Association, Entomological Society of America (Fellow), American Society of Parasitology, Washington Academy of Science (Fellow), American Institute for Biological Sciences, Biological Society of Washington, Kansas Entomological Society, Sigma Xi, Phi Sigma, Alpha Zeta, Explorers Club (Fellow), and Cosmos Club. His name is listed in American Men and Women of Science, Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Who's Who in Government, The Blue Book of Washington D.C., Community Leaders of America, Dictionary of International Biography, and Personalities of the South.

Upon retirement in 1980, K.C. and Mary moved to a home they had built on Sanibel Island, Florida. Once there, K. C. became actively involved in many activities, including being president of the Care and Rehabilitation of Wildlife and serving on several committees of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. He would also take a daily tour of the Ding Darling Wildlife Preserve, recording the animal species that he saw. In 1986, he was honored as a recipient of the Distinguished Agriculture Alumnus Award at Oklahoma State University.

When I was embarking on my taxonomic journey among the chewing lice in 1960, K.

C. was most encouraging and generous in his advice and loan of materials. This co-operative spirit was with us for 30 years and contributed much to the "fun" of louse taxonomy. I am certain that others that he contacted had similar experiences. In this day when chewing louse taxonomists are truly an endangered species, K. C. will be greatly missed.

Dr. Emerson is survived by his wife, Mary, 3 sons—William K., James B., and Robert E.—and 2 grandchildren—Rebecca and Philip. His wife continues to reside at 560 Boulder Drive, Sanibel, Florida.

Roger D. Price, *Professor Emeritus of Entomology, University of Minnesota, 4622 Kinkead Avenue, Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903.*

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